

# GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETIN

Published Weekly by

## THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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### CONTENTS FOR WEEK OF APRIL 3, 1922. Vol. 1. No. 9.

1. Koritza and the Disputed Area of Southern Albania.
2. The Park of a Thousand Flowers—Yosemite.
3. Why the North Pole is Hard to Reach.
4. Icebergs.
5. The Background of Rumania's Expansion and Present Status.

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Photograph by F. J. Koch. © National Geographic Society.

#### ONE FAMILY, OR CLAN, OF ALBANIANS

In certain remote mountain districts of Albania, the tribal law, known as the Canon of Lek (a legendary lawgiver), still obtains in full force. By this law a man is complete master in his own house and may even kill his wife or children. Marriages are frequently arranged in infancy and may take place when the girl becomes 14 years of age. Among mountain clans the women till the soil in the valleys while the men guard the flocks on the hillsides.

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#### HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

The Geographic News Bulletin is published weekly throughout the school year (thirty issues) and will be mailed to teachers for one year upon receipt of 25 cents (in stamps or money order). Entered as second-class matter, January 27, 1922, at the Post Office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in section 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized February 9, 1922.

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## Koritza and the Disputed Area of Southern Albania

RECENT reports of a revolution in Albania follow upon the heels of skirmishes not many months ago between Albanians and Greeks in Northern Epirus and attacks of Serbians upon Albanian towns along the River Drin.

Any other country would be nonplussed to awake some fine morning with two wars on its hands; but such a predicament is but an episode in Albania's brief but stormy history.

### Country Created to Avert World War

The country was created in 1912 to avert a world war, and when world war did come the troops of five countries occupied various sections of it. Germans, Austrians, and Bulgarians were in control in the northern districts where Serbians now are making attacks, while France and Italy held the south, including the area about Koritza, which now forms the bone of contention with Greece. Durazzo, chief Albanian port, was seized by d'Annunzio.

Perhaps history will recognize Koritza as the scene of the first definite step toward remaking the Map of Europe. For there, in December, 1916, was set up a government, generally referred to as the Republic of Koritza. While most of Albania was in Austrian hands this little republic, under French military protection, started to function as an Albanian republic, issued paper money, postage stamps, and established a national army with a fighting strength of 600.

### Newest Country Peopled by Oldest Race

Before 1914 Albania was the newest country of the Old World, and it is peopled by the most ancient race of southeast Europe. Edward Gibbon called it "a country within sight of Italy, which is less known than the interior of America." And more than a century after that characterization, before the war helped introduce the Balkans to America, a letter addressed "Albania" was sent from England to the United States, and was returned from Albany, N. Y., with the notation "Not for Albany, try Europe."

Few travelers visit Albania, and information about the present day aspects of the country is meager.

### Some First-hand Impressions

Brig. Gen. George P. Scriven, U. S. A., who was in Albania during the war, wrote to the National Geographic Society as follows:

"The towns of southern Albania are few and, though strange and picturesque in appearance, are in reality poor in comfort. Of cities there are not any. Koritza, with some 20,000 people, is the largest place, but it is far from being a city. However, if the towns are somewhat mean and squalid, they are interesting to the eye and have the charm of old-world quaintness. There are but four worth mentioning: Arjirokastro, so old at least in appearance that its origin falls back into the mists of time; the pleasant village of Premati, lying in a fertile valley along the river Viosa; Koritza, held by the French; and Valona, clean and thriving under the Italian army.

"They are all pleasant places to look upon, nestling among the mountains, in the valleys, and by the sea, with their old, gray walls and roofs of stone dotted with storks; but they possess none of the comforts or conveniences of modern life.



*Photograph by Charles Martin. © National Geographic Society.*

**PEARY, STEFANSSON, AND GREELY, A TRIUMVIRATE IN POLAR EXPLORATION  
ACHIEVEMENT**

This photograph, made at the Washington headquarters of the National Geographic Society in January, 1919, was the last taken of Rear-Admiral Peary, discoverer of the North Pole, who stands at the left. In the center is Vilhjalmur Stefansson, who had just been awarded the Society's Hubbard Gold Medal for his work in adding 100,000 square miles to the mapped polar regions of the Western Hemisphere. At the right is Major-General A. W. Greely, leader of the Greely International Polar Expedition of 1881-84.

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### The Park of a Thousand Flowers—Yosemite

**Y**OSEMITE National Park is beloved especially by children because of its many flowers. This park's topography, with thousands of feet difference in altitude in places within hailing distance of each other, makes it possible for the visitor to enjoy flowers of several seasons in a single visit.

Leaving the rich San Joaquin Valley at Merced for the beautiful trip by train through the Canyon of the Merced River, scarred by the gold diggings of '49, the traveler turns his floral calendar backward with each mile of climbing into the Sierra Nevada, passing rapidly from full summer to late spring at El Portal, where the official gateway to Yosemite National Park is located. A few miles farther, at the Gates of the Valley—that famous spot where El Capitan stands on the left, Three Graces and Bridalveil Falls on the right, with a vista of Yosemite Valley between—he finds spring in full glory.

And on the same day, visitors to Glacier Point, "just upstairs" from Yosemite Valley, on the rim of the granite wall enclosing the Valley and 3,254 feet higher, will be out skiing and tobogganing on four feet of snow.

By the time summer gets to Yosemite Valley, it is springtime at Glacier Point, and when summer gets to the Point the Sierra is enjoying the brief season which passes there for both spring and summer, and Yosemite Valley has progressed well towards autumn.

### Snowplant Is a Park Wonder

Most interesting of all plants to the visitor is the snowplant—and no other is so jealously guarded by the Park authorities. When word of a new stalk is received a sign is dispatched hastily and erected near it—hands off! In its early stages the snowplant is more like a scarlet asparagus tip than anything else. As it matures, the leaves near the upper end unfold and reveal bells like those of a hyacinth. The name snowplant is misleading, according to such a high authority as Jepson, who says the plant has nothing to do with snow, and that the name probably originated because it appears early in spring and is likely to be caught in a late flurry, which makes the richness of its coloring all the more conspicuous, causing the uninformed to think that the plant pushed its way through the new snow.

Contrary to the common assumption, the snowplant is not a parasite, but lives on decaying vegetable matter absorbed through intricately laced white fibers which serve the plant in place of roots. It is unique in that the food absorbed is at once transmuted into the scarlet stalk and leaves, differing from other plants which are veritable chemical laboratories, demanding chlorophyl to assist them in digesting their daily meal.

### Bloom as Ice Melts

There probably are more than 1,000 different species of flowering plants, shrubs and trees in Yosemite. Some of them, like the marsh buttercup, seem to bud beneath the snow and then burst into bloom as soon as the icy covering melts. On the high levels of the park a thin patch of snow will disappear under the influence of a hot sun and the patient botanist in a few hours can see the buttercups unfolding into full blossom. This undoubtedly is due to environment,

### Modern Conveniences Lacking

"Such matter-of-fact things as trams, hotels, or cafes do not exist in Albanian towns and would seem wholly out of place. Water is drawn from the wells as it was 4,000 years ago, or maybe from some nearby stream. Inns are represented by the khan, a stone building, half house, half stable, where caravans and pack trains stop to rest.

"Albania belongs to a time as far back as the annals of the world can reach and is as primitive as if it were in central China, almost as difficult to penetrate as Tibet itself. It is a land unfamiliar to the traveler and shunned by the tourist of today.

### Houses Built with an Eye to Defense

"If the three or four centers of population in southern Albania are a little disappointing as cities, this is not true of the country or of the picturesque villages which gather like gray splashes upon the grayer hills, where they appear to have nestled since the beginning of time. Rough stone huts they are for the most part, with flat stone roofs. For purposes of defense, they are usually situated half way up the lower hills, and the houses and outbuildings are often surrounded by strong stone walls.

"The valleys are rich and well cultivated, chiefly by the women, but present a desolate, deserted appearance, except in the daylight working hours. Not a farmhouse nor a stable is to be seen amidst all the fertile acres. The crops cannot be stolen; no bandit would think of destroying them, and so they are left unguarded."

Bulletin No. 1, April 3, 1922.



Photograph by E. M. Newman. © National Geographic Society.

#### A VILLAGE STREET IN RUMANIA

The day of "tap water" in every house in Rumanian cities is still a long time in the future, and such water-carriers as these are a common sight.

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## Why the North Pole is Hard to Reach

INTEREST in Arctic exploration is renewed because of the proposed unveiling of a memorial monument to the late Rear Admiral Robert E. Peary, at the Arlington National Cemetery, on April 6, thirteenth anniversary of his discovery of the North Pole.

The top of the world, the region around the North Pole, which is constantly luring adventurous spirits through the frozen Arctic waters and now daring ambitious pilots of airplanes, vies with Mount Everest for being the most inaccessible place in the world.

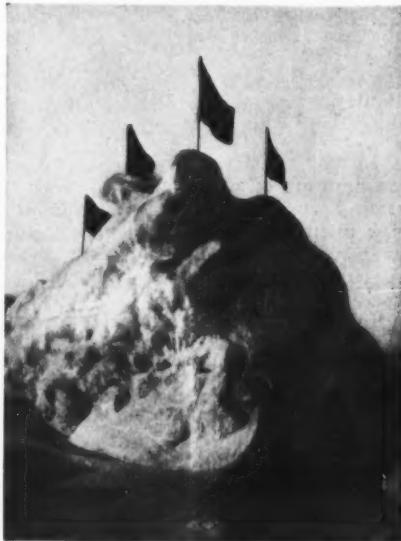
Where Siberia, Alaska, northern Canada, Greenland, and Arctic Russia dodge hither and yon on the Arctic Circle they practically enclose a great area of ocean more or less covered with ice. Greenland's most northern area, Peary Land, and Grant Land which lies to the west, push themselves out nearest the Pole.

### Why Polar Travel is Difficult

If, from Cape Columbia, on the northern shore of Grant Land, the Arctic Ocean would freeze over in a solid smooth block during the months of dead winter, intrepid explorers could probably push their dog sleds over to the Pole with less difficulty and danger. The area of the ocean, instead, is covered with innumerable floes or cakes of ice. These surge back and forth, buckling up and piling upon each other until they form ridges fifty or sixty feet high, which crack and break with the current of the water and the velocity of the winds.

Though there is always water present, the lanes between the ice blocks are not wide enough for ships to sail through, but they often make it impossible for men walking or making their way by dog sled to get back to safety after they have left their boats. This condition is encountered even in midwinter months when the temperature runs to 50 and 60 degrees below zero. Stefansson says that these strips of open water are "more serious than the deepest masses of the softest snow or the most craggy and slippery ice ridges."

Bulletin No. 3, April 3, 1922 (over).



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ADMIRAL PEARY'S PHOTOGRAPH OF THE NORTH POLE

The northern axis of the globe is in the midst of a vast Polar Sea, and the mound of the photograph is a mere mass of snow and ice utilized by Peary as a pinnacle for the American flag which floats at the top. On his return journey, five miles from the Pole, the explorer came upon a narrow crack in the ice, through which he attempted a sounding. The length of his apparatus was 9,000 feet, but the lead did not strike bottom. So, the depth of the sea at the Pole is still undetermined.

nature having taught the flowers of the high altitudes to adapt themselves to the brief season of warmth.

Indian paintbrush, thick clusters of pink bells on the manzanita, wild lilac, azaleas along the river bank, dogwood, lavender shooting stars, and many others appear in early spring. In June comes the gorgeous Mariposa lily, varying in color from a white to a deep red, and resembling a cultivated tulip. Then there is the Washington lily, throwing its large white blooms high above the chaparral. Lupines reach their prime in August—there are so many different kinds in Yosemite that some of them never have been classified. You can see them in acre stretches in the meadows, looking like miniature forests, topped by brilliant petals. The fireweed also grows in luxuriance.

#### **"Monkey Flower" and "Elephant Head"**

Comparatively rare among the flowers of Yosemite, and as beautiful as any orchid, is the *mentzelia*, or blazing star, yellow petals, orange center, with a fringe of long stamens, giving it an exotic appearance. Curiosities among the park's flowers are the yellow monkey flower and purple elephant head, the former taking its name from the plaintive and humorous little face outlined on it, while the latter suggests the flapping ears and long trunk of an elephant.

Another interesting plant is the quinine bush, the bitter leaf of which is used by the Indians as medicine.

**Bulletin No. 2, April 3, 1922.**



*Photograph by Ansel F. Hall. © National Geographic Society.*

#### **A WINTER SCENE IN "THE PARK OF A THOUSAND FLOWERS"**

Half Dome and Clouds Rest, in Yosemite National Park, as they appeared on December 13. Note the chief ranger's winter costume—bare head, short sleeves, no coat or gloves. Snowshoeing with fifty pounds of weather instruments is both work and an art.

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## **Icebergs**

**C**OAST guard cutters soon will be scouting the North Atlantic so passengers and crews of ships sailing in northern seas may sleep without fear that an iceberg will creep up on them in the night.

These floating white castles of the North, with their fantastic glamor and threatening, death-dealing portent, sometimes wander down to latitude 38 degrees—as far south as such sunny climes as Lisbon in Portugal or the shores of Delaware Bay.

The icebergs which are to be seen during the early spring months in the Atlantic are great frozen fresh water glacier-ends which have broken loose from the ice fields of Greenland and floated with the current into warmer seas. They "herd" quite often off the coast of Newfoundland. The warm waters of the northwestern coast of Europe keep them back on that side as far north as 70 degrees. There are few of them also in the North Pacific except near northeastern Asia.

## **Monster Floating Palaces**

Gorgeously tricked out in white that gleams and sparkles in the sunlight, these monster palaces push out from the great sheet of ice that covers Greenland. No architectural feat of the ancient Egyptians or of the Byzantines, or of a Sir Christopher Wren can compare with the Karnaks and hundreds of other temples which are carved in their sides by the agents of erosion. No marble possesses the rainbow-tints of their columns, and no man-made edifice has so fairylike, capricious, and bizarre a character. The whole gamut of blues and greens plays hide and seek over their surface, and sometimes in summer little cascades tumble over the sides to hide themselves in the waves. But their ghostlike emptiness and the chill of their breath make mariners shiver with dread.

Most of the icebergs of the North Atlantic are pushed out from the west coast of Greenland between Disco Bay and Smith Sound or from the east coast south of 68 degrees latitude. Some of them are as much as 445 feet above the surface of the water, this being about one-sixth or one-seventh of their volume.

## **Débris Soon Lost**

As they sail away they necessarily start with some of the débris which was originally in the bottom of the glacier. Much of this immediately falls to the bottom of the ocean, having melted its way out. Often they capsize or flop over on one side when the breaking or melting shifts their centers of gravity. The débris, when it is on the top, quickly plows its way through the iceberg, having absorbed more of the heat of the sun than the ice does. When it is on the side it soon slides into the ocean. At any rate the débris seldom stays with the berg far on its journey. Nothing seems to mar the purity of the iceberg's exterior. They support little life, a minute worm and the simple microscopic algae, which gives a red color to snow, being their only inhabitants.

The icebergs of the Antarctic regions are larger than those of the Arctic, but not so tall perhaps. They are portions of the enormous ice sheet around the South Pole, which break off in tablelike blocks and float away as grim sentinels of the southern waters. One explorer reports that at one time he counted as

### Gulf Stream Helps Explorers

The Gulf Stream, however, whose magic breath brings heat and life to regions which would otherwise be cold and barren, thaws out some of the ice in the northern Atlantic where it merges with the Arctic Ocean, thus permitting boats in the waters of Greenland and the Scandinavian countries to penetrate farther north than possible on the Pacific side. Polar explorers have taken advantage of this fact by pushing northward on this side rather than in the vicinity of Bering Strait.

Peary, when he overcame almost insurmountable difficulties in pushing out over this more than six hundred miles of floating icebergs, marked out a route which future explorers can follow, as well as established the fact that determination and enthusiasm combined with a knowledge of the problems of the undertaking can conquer most, if not all, of the difficulties attendant upon exploring the world's geographical features.

In the area through which Peary pushed he found much of interest. From the southern coast of Greenland where the willow and birch trees grow only from 15 inches to three feet and the mosses more than a foot high, he skirted the western coast of this country through Davis Strait, and Baffin Bay to Etah, an Eskimo village on Smith Sound in Greenland. He knew, as other explorers knew before him, that a current frequently ran in that series of straits between northwestern Greenland and those great islands of Arctic America known as Ellesmere Land, Grinnell Land and Grant Land, which might enable him to push his vessel northward to Capé Columbia in latitude 83 degrees, the point of land nearest the North Pole. Due to the knowledge and skill of the party, their vessel reached its destination, which was the farthest northward that any ship has ever steamed.

### What Greely Found

To the west along his route lay Grinnell Land, the interior of which General A. W. Greely explored and reported that he found there fertile valleys, a beautiful lake, and abundant animal life. Grant Land lies still farther to the north. Robeson Channel, the last stretch before Peary reached the Arctic Ocean proper, separating Grant Land from Hall Land on the northern shore of Greenland, is just a few miles longer than the Dardanelles.

The famous Northeast Passage, through which Nansen was able to drift in the "Fram" within less than five degrees of the Pole, extends from the New Siberian Islands off the northern coast of Siberia over to the Greenland Sea. Whalers have been able to explore every sound and inlet along the western coast of Spitzbergen and even plant summer colonies there due to the influence of the Gulf Stream.

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## The Background of Rumania's Expansion and Present Status

**R**UMANIA, which practically doubled its area and population as the result of the World War, now is the largest of the Balkan States. Toward it the Soviet Government of Russia long has turned a covetous eye, and recent reports state that active efforts to invade Rumania are imminent.

Rumania's history and her reasons for entering the war on the side of the Allies, which now become of interest, are outlined by John Oliver LaGorce, in an article in the *National Geographic Magazine*, as follows:

"Few states in history have been called to such momentous decisions as Rumania faced when it plunged boldly into the Niagara of blood and carnage that had rolled down over Europe for two long years.

### Hope of Greater Rumania

"But both hope and fear beckoned the Rumanians—the hope of a greater Rumania and the fear of a strangled homeland.

"The brave people of this little kingdom—for before the war it was less than one-fifth as big as Texas—have many proverbs. 'The water passeth and the stone remains,' they say, referring to their own persistence as a people in spite of the floods of humanity that have swept over their territory.

### Held Sway Over Area Larger Than Utah

"In the whirlpool of racial rivalries of southeastern Europe—where Roman and Goth, Hun and Slav, Magyar and Mongol, with all of their descendant peoples, have run over one another and have been run over in turn—fate left the Rumanians in the majority in a territory of more than 90,000 square miles. It scattered more than 12,000,000 of them over these lands—more than 7,000,000 in Rumania itself and some 5,000,000 elsewhere. In Bessarabia, a province of 17,000 miles and 2,600,000 population, belonging in 1914 to Russia, two-thirds of the people are Rumanians; in Transylvania, the eastern part of old Hungary, a land of 21,000 square miles, and having a population of 2,500,000, 60 per cent, Rumania claims, are Rumanians; in Bukowina, formerly an Austrian crownland of 4,000 square miles and 1,000,000 population, more than half are said to be Rumanians.

"And so 12,000,000 people yearned for a 'restored' Rumania—all ethnographic Rumania under the flag of political Rumania. If their country remained neutral, they reasoned, there would be no chance for such a happy result. They might, they felt, get something out of Russia if the Central Powers won with Rumania on their side; but Transylvania and Bukowina would still be beyond their grasp. On the other hand, they believed Russia would give them Bessarabia as a prize for participation on her side, and the Allies Bukowina and Transylvania on condition of an allied victory.

### Fear of Extinction Turned Scale

"But if hope of a 'reunited' Rumania appealed greatly to the Rumanians the fear of strangulation, if not extinction, turned the scale positively to the cause of the Allies.

"If an unfriendly Russia should gain control of Constantinople as a result

many as sixty from the deck of his steamer, while more than that could be seen from his masthead.

Like mighty derelicts, dwarfing our largest battleships into utter insignificance, their sides sometimes measuring from thirty to forty miles in length when they first break off from the Ross Barrier, they float out into the depths, where the warmer winds and seas eat out their very cores, undermine them, make them turn turtle, and finally break them up into smaller bergs and hard small chips called "growlers." The "growlers" are as dangerous as the mother iceberg.

Bulletin No. 4, April 3, 1922.

### Note to Teachers

Since both school and public libraries generally have bound volumes of *The National Geographic Magazine* it has been suggested that references to articles and pictures in *The Geographic* concerning topics treated in the bulletins would be helpful. Therefore references which may be of use for further study of the subjects, or for source material in project and problem assignments, are contained in the following bibliography extracted from "The Cumulative Index to the *National Geographic Magazine*".

#### Albania

Albania: The Albanians. By Theron J. Damon. Vol. XXIII, pp. 1090-1102, 14 ills., Nov., 1912. The Changing Map in the Balkans. By Frederick Moore. Vol. XXIV, pp. 199-226, 27 ills., 1 page map, Feb., 1912. Recent Observations in Albania. By Brig. Gen. George F. Scriven. Vol. XXXIV, pp. 90-114, 21 ills., 1 half-page map, Aug., 1918. The Young Turk. By Rear Admiral Colby M. Chester. Vol. XXII, pp. 42-59, 39 ills., Jan., 1912. Albanians: The Races of Europe. By Edwin A. Grosvenor, L. H. D., LL.D. Vol. XXXIV, pp. 441-538, 62 ills., 2 page maps, 1 insert, Dec., 1918.

#### Arctic Explorations

Arctic Expeditions Commanded by Americans. Vol. XVIII, pp. 458-468, 10 ills., July, 1907. The Anglo-American Polar Expedition (Arctic). By E. de K. Leffingwell. Vol. XVIII, pp. 736, Dec., 1907. Discovery of the North Pole. Vol. XX, pp. 892-896, 11 ills., 1 page map, Oct., 1909. Farthest North. Vol. XVII, pp. 638-644, 9 ills., Nov., 1906. The Mission of the Diana (Peary Arctic Club). Vol. X, pp. 273, July, 1899. Seventy-five Days in the Arctics. By Max Fleischman. Vol. XVIII, pp. 439-446, 5 ills., July, 1907.

#### Peary

Peary: Discovery of the Pole, The: First Report by Commander Robert E. Peary, September 6, 1909. Vol. XX, pp. 893-916, 11 ills., 1 page map, Oct., 1909. Honors to Amundsen and Peary (National Geographic Society's Banquet). Vol. XXIV, pp. 113-130, 5 ills., Jan., 1913. Honors to Peary (Presentation of Hubbard Medal). Vol. XVIII, pp. 49-60, 1 ill., Jan., 1907. North Pole, The. Vol. XX, pp. 921-922, Nov., 1909. North Pole, The (Resolutions of the Society Acknowledging Peary's Discovery). Vol. XX, pp. 1008-1009, Nov., 1909. Peary and the North Pole. Vol. XIV, pp. 379-381, Oct., 1908.

Peary as a Leader: Incidents from the Life of the Discoverer of the North Pole Told by One of His Lieutenants on the Expedition Which Reached the Goal. By Donald B. MacMillan. Vol. XXXVII, pp. 293-317, 20 ills., 1 page map, April, 1920.

Peary on the North Pole. Vol. XIV, pp. 28-29, 1 page map, Jan., 1903.

Peary's Explorations in 1898-1899. Vol. X, pp. 415-416, Oct., 1899.

Peary's Explorations in the Far North. By Gilbert Grosvenor. Vol. XXXVII, pp. 318-322, 3 ills., April, 1920.

Peary's Polar Expedition. Vol. XIX, p. 447, June, 1908.

Peary's Twenty Years' Service in the Arctic. Vol. XVIII, pp. 446-450, July, 1907.

Peary's Work in 1900 and 1901. Vol. XII, pp. 357-361, 2 ills., Oct., 1901.

Peary's Work in 1901-1902. By Gilbert H. Grosvenor. Vol. XIII, pp. 384-386, Oct., 1902.

#### Rumania

Rumania: Notes on Rumania. Vol. XXIII, pp. 1218-1225, 8 ills., Dec., 1912.

Rumania and Its Rubicon. By John Oliver LaGorce. Vol. XXX, pp. 185-202, 11 ills., Sept., 1916.

Rumania, the Pivotal State. By James Howard Gore. Vol. XXVIII, pp. 360-390, 32 ills., Oct., 1915.

Rumania and Her Ambitions. By Frederick Moore. Vol. XXIV, pp. 1057-1083, 34 ills., Oct., 1913.

Rumanians: Races of Europe, The. By Edwin A. Grosvenor, L. H. D., LL.D. Vol. XXXIV, pp. 441-533, 62 ills., 2 page maps, 1 insert, Dec., 1918.

#### Yosemite National Park

Yosemite National Park: Land of the Best, The. By Gilbert H. Grosvenor. Vol. XXIX, pp. 327-430, 71 ills. in black and white, 33 ills. in color, 1 panorama, April, 1916.

Our National Parks. By L. F. Schmeckebier. Vol. XXIII, pp. 531-579, 41 ills., 1 page map, June, 1912.

Wonderland of California, The. By Herman Whittaker. Vol. XXVIII, pp. 56-104, 45 ills., July, 1915.

of an Entente Allies' victory, said this writer, it would inevitably mean the strangulation of Rumania. With the fruition of her hopes and the dissipation of her fears both seemingly on one side, there seemed to be but one horn to Rumania's dilemma.

#### **Once Robbed of Spoils of Victory**

"Rumania's insistence upon assurances at the Paris Conference recalls that she once was robbed of the spoils of victory. When the conflict between Russia and Turkey was impending in 1877, Carol first attempted to have the Powers guarantee the neutrality of Rumania during the war; but they were too busy with their own affairs and his efforts failed.

"Then Rumania decided to enter an agreement with Russia. This agreement, which is illuminating, in the light of present-day history, granted free passage of Russian troops over Rumanian soil, Russia undertaking to respect the political rights and to defend the integrity of Rumania.

"One of the first acts of Rumania after hostilities began was to declare her independence of Turkey. As the war proceeded, Russia found herself in sore need of help. Repeated appeals finally brought Rumanian participation, and Prince Carol was given the supreme command of the allied forces before Plevna, where he gained a great but costly victory.

"When the war ended and Turkey and Russia entered into the Treaty of San Stefano, it did recognize Rumanian independence, although Rumania was not admitted to the peace conference. But it also provided that Rumania should get the swampy country between the Danube, where it flows north, and the Black Sea. On the other hand, Russia was to have Bessarabia, territory which Rumania claimed and a part of which she had occupied.

#### **When Prince Carol Defied Russia**

"Rumania stood firm against the idea of giving up the beautiful Bessarabia in exchange for the unattractive Dobrudja. Russia thereupon threatened to disarm the Rumanian army, to which Prince Carol responded that Russia might destroy his army, but that it could not be disarmed.

"The Congress of Berlin, which overthrew the Russo-Turkish treaty of San Stefano, did not interfere with Russia's determination to force Rumania to accept Dobrudja in exchange for Bessarabia, and Rumania came out with less than she had when she went in. All she could do was to console herself with Lord Beaconsfield's remark to her, that 'in politics the best services are often rewarded with ingratitude.'"

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